

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OC*-01; EA-11 ISO-00 IGA-02 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-14 ABF-01

TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGR-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /222 W

----- 084576

R 101205Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4118

INFO CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EA, EGEN, CB

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR A NEW KHMER REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT ORGANIZATION

REFERENCE: (A) PHNOM PENH 10563/011245Z OCT 73

(B) SECSTATE 203141/122223Z OCT 73

1. AFTER MUCH CONSIDERATION WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION
THAT THE AUGMENTED REFUGEE EFFORT PROPOSED IN REFTEL (A)
AND APPROVED BY REFTEL (B) REQUIRES AN ENTIRELY NEW
ORGANIZATION ON THE KHMER SIDE THAT IS C OSER TO A PUBLIC
CORPORATION OR FOUNDATION THAN TO A NEW MINISTRY OR
COMMISSARIAT GENERAL. WE BELIEVE (AND WE NGE WITH
INTEREST THAT ALMOST EVERY KHMER LEADER WITH WHOM WE HAVE

DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM ALSO BELIEVES) THAT THE TEMPTATION
TO PLAY POLITICS AND THE DANGER OF BOGGING DOWN IN
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KHMER BUREAUCRATICS MAKE EITHER A NEW MINISTRY OR

A COMMISARIAT GENERAL UNATTRACTIVE. WE HAVE THUS COME UP WITH THE IDEA OF A PUBLIC CORPORATION OR FOUNDATION, WHICH WOULD BE AUTONOMOUS, NON-POLITICAL, AND FREE FROM THE RESTRICTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL AND BUDGET CONSTRAINTS. IT IS, OF COURSE, APPARENT THAT SUCH AN ORGANIZATION WILL BE A NEW CREATION IN KHMER EXPERIENCE, AND ITS SUCCESS CANNOT NOW BE PREDICTED WITH ASSURANCE.

2. IN A LETTER DATED 08 DECEMBER, I PUT THIS CONCEPT TO LON NOL, CHENG HENG AND SIRIK MATAK. AFTER DISCUSSING THE WORRISOME DETERIORATION OF THE REFUGEE SITUATION OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE OPERATIVE PORTION OF THE LETTER GOES ON AS FOLLOWS (TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH):

"WHAT THEN IS TO BE DONE? THERE IS ONLY ONE POSSIBLE REPLY: REFUGEES MUST BE RE-ESTABLISHED ON THE LAND. IT IS ONLY IF THEY BECOME ONCE AGAIN PRODUCERS THAT THEY CAN RECOVER THEIR MORALE AND THEIR SELF RESPECT AND IT IS ONLY IN INCREASING THE NUMBERS OF FARMERS, OF ARTISANS, OF FISHERMEN, AND OF ANIMAL RAISERS THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO SURMOUNT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS THE COUNTRY IS TRAVERSING.

"THUS THE OBJECTIVE MUST BE TO MULTIPLY VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS (COLONIES VILLAGEOISES);

(A) SITUATED IN THE VICINITY OF CITIES AND ALONG ROUTES, WHERE THE SECURITY IS ASSURED, AND WHERE THE INHABITANTS CAN COMBINE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYMENT WITH AGRICULTURAL, HOME INDUSTRY, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, AND FISHING;

(B) COMPOSED OF SIMPLE DWELLINGS CONSTRUCTED BY REFUGEES THEMSELVES WORKING WITH SIMPLE MATERIALS OF LOCAL ORIGIN;

(C) ENDOWED WITH AUSTERE AND MINIMAL PUBLIC SERVICES DESIGNED TO PREPARE THE TERRAIN AND TO ESTABLISH WATER SUPPLY;

(D) BUILT IN THE MIDDLE OF PREPARED AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND, IN CERTAIN CASES, EQUIPPED WITH FISH PONDS; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(E) ASSISTED AT THE START WITH SEEDS, FARM TOOLS, BREEDING STOCK, AND THE ADVICE OF AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS (ADEQUATE OUTLETS FOR THE SALE OF FERTILIZER, INSECTICIDE, AND OTHER NECESSARY PRODUCTS MUST BE ORGANIZED ON AN INEXPENSIVE AND RATIONAL BASIS);

(F) DESIGNED NOT TO REPEAT NOT TO SERVE AS PERMANENT COMMUNITIES,

BUT AS TEMPORARY SETTLEMENTS FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR.

"HOW SHOULD WE PROCEED? IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DEVELOPMENT
OF AN UNTENABLE SOCIAL SITUATION, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO
RESETTLE SOME 30,000 FAMILIES A YEAR.
TO CARRY OUT AN EFFORT OF SUCH SCOPE (NOTE THAT ONLY 1000
FAMILIES WERE RESETTLED IN THE PHNOM PENH REGION IN THE LAST
12 MONTHS) A NEW INSTRUMENT WILL BE NEEDED MUCH MORE POWERFUL
THAN EXISTING STRUCTURES.

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IGA-02 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-14 ABF-01

TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGR-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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" THIS INSTRUMENT, IN OUR VIEW, SHOULD BE A FOUNDATION (ASSOCIATION):

(A) AUTONOMOUS AND NOT POLITICAL WHOSE OBJECTIVES WOULD BE SPECIFIED IN THE STATUTES AS GIVEN ABOVE;

(B) FINANCED BY GOVERNMENT BUDGET ALLOCATIONS
AND BY DIRECT FOREIGN AID;

(C) GUIDED BY A BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMPOSED FOR ONE
HALF OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERESTED

MINISTRIES (INTERIOR, PUBLIC WORKS, FINANCE, SOCIAL ACTION, AGRICULTURE) AND THE FANK, AND FOR THE OTHER HALF REPRESENTATIVES OF BUDDHIST ORDERS, OF THE REFUGEES, BUSINESS-MEN, AND PUBLIC;

(D) MANAGED BY A PRESIDENT CHOSEN AMONG THE MOST CAPABLE AND THE MOST ENERGETIC KHMER EXECUTIVES (PERHAPS A WELL KNOWN BUSINESSMAN);

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(E) AUTHORIZED TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN BUDGETARY PROCEDURES;

(F) EMPLOYING THE REQUIRED TECHNICAL PERSONNEL AT SALARIES THE FOUNDATION WOULD ESTABLISH (PERSONNEL SECONDED FROM MINISTRIES COULD RECEIVE A SALARY SUPPLEMENT);

(G) AUTHORIZED TO REQUISITION BY ACCELERATED PROCEDURES UNCULTIVATED AND UNINHABITED LANDS IN RETURN FOR A NOMINAL RENT; TO NEGOTIATE WITH RESPONSIBLE PROVINCIAL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO ASSURE SECURITY; TO ORGANIZE WITH GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE THE PREPARATION OF LAND, THE CONSTRUCTION OF DIKES, AND THE PROVISION PURCHASES OF PUBLIC SERVICES; TO ORGANIZE UNDER ITS OWN DIRECTION THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIMPLE DWELLINGS BY THE REFUGEES THEMSELVES WITH MATERIALS FURNISHED BY THE FOUNDATION; AND TO FURNISH ASSISTANCE IN TOOLS, SEEDS, BREEDING STOCK, AS WELL AS TECHNICAL ADVICE AND TEMPORARY HELP TO PERMIT THE REFUGEES TO SURVIVE UNTIL THE FIRST CROP OR SALE;

(H) AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE PROVINCES AS WELL AS IN PHNOM PENH.

(I) DESTINED ACHIEVE A CERTAIN SCOPE; TO SUCCEED SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF CADRE WILL BE NECESSARY;

(J) SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY AN INDEPENDENT ORGANISM.

-IF THE KHMER GOVERNMENT WISHES, TO UNITED STATES WOULD BE READY TO ASSIGN A SMALL NUMBER OF TECHNICAL COUNSELORS TO THIS FOUNDATION, AND TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO IT SIGNIFICANT DIRECT ASSISTANCE. I AM SURE THAT OTHER DONORS WOULD DO THE SAME.

" UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, THE RECEPTION, EMERGENCY RELIEF, CLOTHING AND FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY KHMER AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS AT PRESENT."

3. LETTER THEN ENDS WITH PROPOSAL THAT
A JOINT WORKING

GROUP BE CONSTITUTED TO SET THE ORGANIZATION UP.

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4. LON NOL TELLS ME THIS MORNING THAT HE SUPPORTS
THIS CONCEPT AND WILL SET UP THE WORKING GROUP
IMMEDIATELY. WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED ON DEVELOPMENTS.
ENDERS

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